

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-56 (Cancelled)

57. (New) An image coding method comprising:
dividing an input image signal corresponding to an image into image signals corresponding to individual local regions of the image;
deciding a filter characteristic for each local region of the input image signal on the basis of image feature data of each local region;
performing adaptive filtering; and
coding the input image signal for each local region.
58. (New) An image coding method comprising:
dividing an input image signal corresponding to an image into image signals corresponding to individual local regions of the image;
deciding a filter characteristic for each local region of the input image signal on the basis of the frequency distribution of image feature data of each local region over a predetermined period;
performing adaptive filtering; and
coding the image signal for each local region on the basis of the decided filter characteristic.